I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 14, 16, 17 and 21, and add new claims 39 and 40 as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of the claims in the above-captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 have been cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) An electro-optical display cell comprising:

(a) at least one transparent front substrate whose top surface forms a front face of the cell;

(b) at least one back substrate that may also be transparent or not, whose lower surface forms a back face of said cell;

(c) a sealing frame joining the front and back substrates and defining a volume for retaining an electro-optically or photo-electrically active medium in a sealed manner, wherein

said front and back substrates include on faces opposite each other at least one electrode each, these electrodes being connectable by conductive paths of the cell to an electrical power or control circuit and the electrodes are even or level~~flush~~ with an edge surface of the front substrate and with an edge surface of the back substrate, respectively, and define lateral electric contact zones,

wherein the conductive paths are each formed of a first separate component part in contact with the electrodes at the level of the lateral electric contact zones, and a second separate component part extending over the back surface of the cell; and

(d) contact means arranged continuously or discontinuously over an edge, or back, or the edge and the back, of the cell thereby forming an electrical junction disposed between the first separate component part and the second separate component part of each conductive

path, wherein the electric junction provides direct conductive continuity between the first separate component part and the second separate component part.

15. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the contact means take the form of discrete bumps.

16. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 15, wherein the first separate component partparts of eachthe conductive path comespaths come into lateral contact with the conductive bumps, whereas the second separate component partparts of eachthe conductive pathpaths can extend as far as the top of said bumps and cover said bumps in whole or in part.

17. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 15, wherein the second separate component partparts of eachthe conductive path extendspaths extend at least partially underneath the conductive bumps .

18. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the contact means take the form of a tape of anisotropic conductive material.

19. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the cell includes a stack of (n) individual cells, each of the individual cells being defined by two substrates belonging thereto.

20. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the cell includes (n+1) superposed substrates, these (n+1) substrates being joined in pairs by a sealing frame.

21. (Currently Amended) A multi-layered liquid crystal display cell including:

four superposed substrates joined in pairs by sealing frames which each define a sealed cavity for retaining liquid crystals;

a first sealing frame joining the substrates, while a second sealing frame joins the substrates and a third sealing frame joins the substrates, said substrates including on faces opposite each other at least one electrode each, said electrodes being connectable by conductive paths to an electric control circuit and the electrodes are even or level~~flush~~ with an edge surface of the front substrate and with an edge surface of the back substrate, respectively, and define lateral electric contact zones,

wherein the conductive paths are each made up of a first separate component part in contact with the electrodes at the level of the lateral electric contact zones, and a second separate component part extending over a back surface of the cell; and

contact means arranged continuously or discontinuously on an edge, or on back, or on the edge and on the back, of said cell thereby forming an electric junction disposed between the first separate component part and the second separate component part of each conductive path, wherein the electric junction provides direct conductive continuity between the first separate component part and the second separate component part.

22. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein a power circuit or the control circuit is mounted on the back of the cell.

23. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 21, wherein a power circuit or the control circuit is mounted on the back of the cell.

24. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 22, wherein the circuit is mounted directly on the back of the cell.

25. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 23, wherein the circuit is mounted directly on the back of the cell.

26. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 22, wherein the circuit is mounted on the back of the cell via a printed circuit board or a flexible conductive film.

27. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 23, wherein the circuit is mounted on the back of the cell via a printed circuit board or a flexible conductive film

28. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein a transparent or coloured absorbent layer for relaxing thermo-mechanical stresses and able to resist a chemical etch bath is deposited on the back of the cell.

29. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 21, wherein a transparent or coloured absorbent layer for relaxing thermo-mechanical stresses and able to resist a chemical etch bath is deposited on the back of the cell.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of metallising a group of liquid crystal cells wherein the method includes the steps of:

metallising the back of the cells while the latter are still in batches;

separating the cells in individual cells;

arranging the group of cells on a support or fitting so that the cells are arranged parallel to each other obliquely and staggered in relation to each other; and

depositing via evaporation an electrically conductive material on the edge of the cells to be metallised.

31. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the cell is a liquid crystal cell.

32. (Withdrawn) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the cell is an electrochemical photovoltaic cell.

33. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the contact means is disposed on an exterior surface of the cell.

34. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 21, wherein the contact means is disposed on an exterior surface of the cell.

35. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the back substrate is disposed between the contact means and the front substrate of the cell.

36. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 21, wherein the back substrate is disposed between the contact means and the front substrate of the cell.

37. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the contact means is disposed on a side of the cell.

38. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 21, wherein the contact means is disposed on a side of the cell.

39. (NEW) The cell according to claim 14, wherein the contact means has a first thickness and the first separate component part and the second separate component part each have a second thickness, wherein the first thickness is thicker than the second thickness.

40. (NEW) The cell according to claim 21, wherein the contact means has a first thickness and the first separate component part and the second separate component part each have a second thickness, wherein the first thickness is thicker than the second thickness.